

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

T-03 OMB-01 RSR-01 LAB-06 SIL-01 /106 W

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R 161735 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5342

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, SP

SUBJ: CONTINUING INCIDENTS AT MADRID UNIVERSITIES

REF: MADRID 939

1. MADRID UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN DISRUPTED BY CONSIDERABLE STUDENT AGITATION DURING PAST WEEK. PRINCIPAL INCIDENT SPARKING CURRENT ROUND CAMPUS AGITATION OCCURRED MARCH 9. WHEN SOME PLAINCLOTHES POLICE WHO WERE INSIDE PHILOSOPHY FACULTY NERVOUSLY FIRED PISTOLS INTO AIR WHEN REPORTEDLY MENACED BY LARGE GROUP OF STUDENTS. IT IS RUMORED THAT TWO STUDENTS WERE INJURED BY BULLETS. ONE (A GIRL) IS ALLEGED TO BE IN SERIOUS CONDITION AT A MADRID HOSPITAL, GOVERNMENT AND UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES HOWEVER, HAVE PUBLICLY DENIED THAT THE POLICE FIRED AT STUDENTS, CLAIMING THAT THEY ONLY FIRED WARNING SHOTS IN AIR AND THAT NO ONE WAS INJURED BY BULLETS.

2. STUDENTS AND EXTREMIST CAMPUS GROUPS HAVE TAKEN CAUSE OF ALLEGEDLY WOUNDED STUDENTS AS RALLYING CRY AND HAVE HELD VARIOUS ILLEGAL ASSEMBLIES IN DIFFERENT FACULTIES THROUGHOUT WEEK, FROM WHICH THEY HAVE USUALLY BEEN FORCEFULLY EVICTED BY POLICE.

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3. ADDING FUEL TO STUDENT ANGER OVER MARCH 9 INCIDENT HAVE BEEN (A) SEVERAL ACTIONS BY UNIVERSITY DISCIPLINARY COUNCILS AGAINST STUDENTS INCLUDING VARIOUS EXPULSIONS AND SUSPENSIONS; (B) CONTINUED CONFUSION OVER STUDY PLANS AND PROFESSIONAL GRIEVANCES IN SEVERAL FACULTIES; AND (C) A SEPARATE BUT RELATED MOVEMENT AMONG ASSISTANT PROFESSORS AND INSTRUCTORS DEMANDING THAT THEIR CONTRACTS FOR THE 1973-74 ACADEMIC YEAR BE RENEWED BEFORE APRIL 1 (THESE CONTRACTS ARE USUALLY NOT RENEWED UNTIL THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER). THAT THEIR TEACHING CONTRACTS BE GIVEN THE FULL PROTECTION ACCORDED NORMAL LABOR CONTRACTS, AND THAT THEY IMMEDIATELY OBTAIN THE BACK PAY THAT MANY HAVE NOT RECEIVED FOR THEIR SERVICES IN RECENT MONTHS.

4. MADRID' S AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY IS ALSO IN THE MIDST OF INCREASING AGITATION. TODAY THE UNIVERSITY AUTHORITHIES THERE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAVE PROHIBITED 12 PROFESSORS FROM TEACHING FOR THE TIME BEING FOR VARIOUS ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC AND DISCIPLINARY RULES.

5. COMMENT: STUDENT AGITATION, WHICH FOR FIRST TIME THIS ACADEMIC YEAR HAS ACQUIRED SIGNIFICANT DIMENSIONS IN MADRID, COULD LEAD TO EARLY CONVOCAION OF THE USUAL EASTER VACATIONS IN ORDER TO COOL THINGS DOWN. MORE SERIOUS THAN STUDENT AGITATION (WHICH STILL MUCH LESS INTENSE THAN LAST YEAR' S) IS MALAISE EXPRESSED BY LARGE BODY OF ASSISTANT PROFESSORS, (WHO CONSTITUTE A MAJORITY AMONG FACULTY) AND WHO HAVE THREATENED TO STRIKE IF THEIR DEMANDS ARE NOT MET BY APRIL 1.
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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